Coconino National Forest Plan Revision

Range

General description – *[still needs to be developed]*

Desired Conditions

- Domestic livestock grazing maintains the desired composition and structure of plant communities. Rangeland ecosystems are diverse, resilient, and functioning within a healthy, sustainable landscape. Grasses and forbs provide adequate forage for wildlife and permitted livestock consistent with other desired conditions. Areas that are grazed have stable soils, functional hydrology and biotic integrity.

- Range lands provide large areas of unfragmented open space. These open spaces sustain biological diversity and ecological processes and help to preserve the rural cultural heritage of central and northern Arizona.

Objectives – *[none are currently identified]*

Guidelines

- Burned areas should be given sufficient rest, especially during the growing season, to ensure plant recovery and vigor and to ensure that perennial plants would not be permanently damaged by grazing. The range management definition for this condition is range readiness. Range readiness is achieved and plants are ready for grazing when at least one of the following characteristics is present on a majority of the perennial plants within the burned area: seed heads or flowers, multiple leaves or branches, and/or a root system that does not allow them to be easily pulled from the ground. These characteristics provide evidence of plant recovery, vigor and reproductive ability.

- Range improvements *[will need to list or define, too generic as is]* should be used and/or located in a way that does not conflict with riparian functions or should be relocated or modified when found incompatible with riparian function or health.

- Intensity, timing, duration, distribution, and frequency of livestock grazing should provide for growth and reproduction of desired plant species. *[If this is retained, should be more specific]*

- Seeding projects should be managed to avoid concentrating livestock in riparian areas, and… *[need to consider which other areas should be included]*

- Fences are constructed to specifications identified in the interagency fence standards or may be modified based on site specific needs.

- Cattleguards should be placed where problem gates across roads exist, prioritizing placement is in the following order: National Forest boundary, allotment boundary, and interior allotment division fences. *[Still need to tie to a desired condition]*

Management Approach

- Collaborate with permittees, tribes, educational institutions, other agencies and stakeholders, in achieving and maintaining desired conditions.
- Regularly review active Allotment Management Plans.
- Work with Counties, municipalities, and private landowners to install cattleguards where problem gates are located are located on the boundary with non-Forest Service in-holdings.
- Consider establishing grass reserves to improve flexibility and balance between restoring fire adapted ecosystems and range management. *[Will need to be specific as to what the conditions are that would lend themselves to establishment of grass reserves.]*
- Waterlots are left open to wildlife for free access except when controlling livestock distribution through water accessibility and when soil moisture conditions adversely affect fence stability.

Grazing management and Rangeland suitability

Suitability is the appropriateness of applying certain resource management practices to a particular area of land in consideration of the relevant social, economic, and ecological factors. Capability is the potential of an area of land to produce resources and supply goods and services. Capable lands are generally the sum of lands classified as full or potential grazing capability for domestic livestock and generally exclude areas classified as no capability. Capability depends upon current conditions and site conditions such as climate, slope, landform, soils, and geology. The identification of lands suitable for livestock grazing within a revised plan is not a decision to authorize livestock grazing; the final decision to authorize livestock grazing would be made a project (allotment) level.

Table 1: Grazing Suitability, areas that are not suitable Coconino National Forest

Feature	Area	Note
Vegetation types like alpine tundra	900 acres	*[Need to describe why alpine tundra is unsuitable]*
Special Areas	*[# to be determined]* acres	*[Need to include if establishment report or equivalent specifically refers to no grazing]*